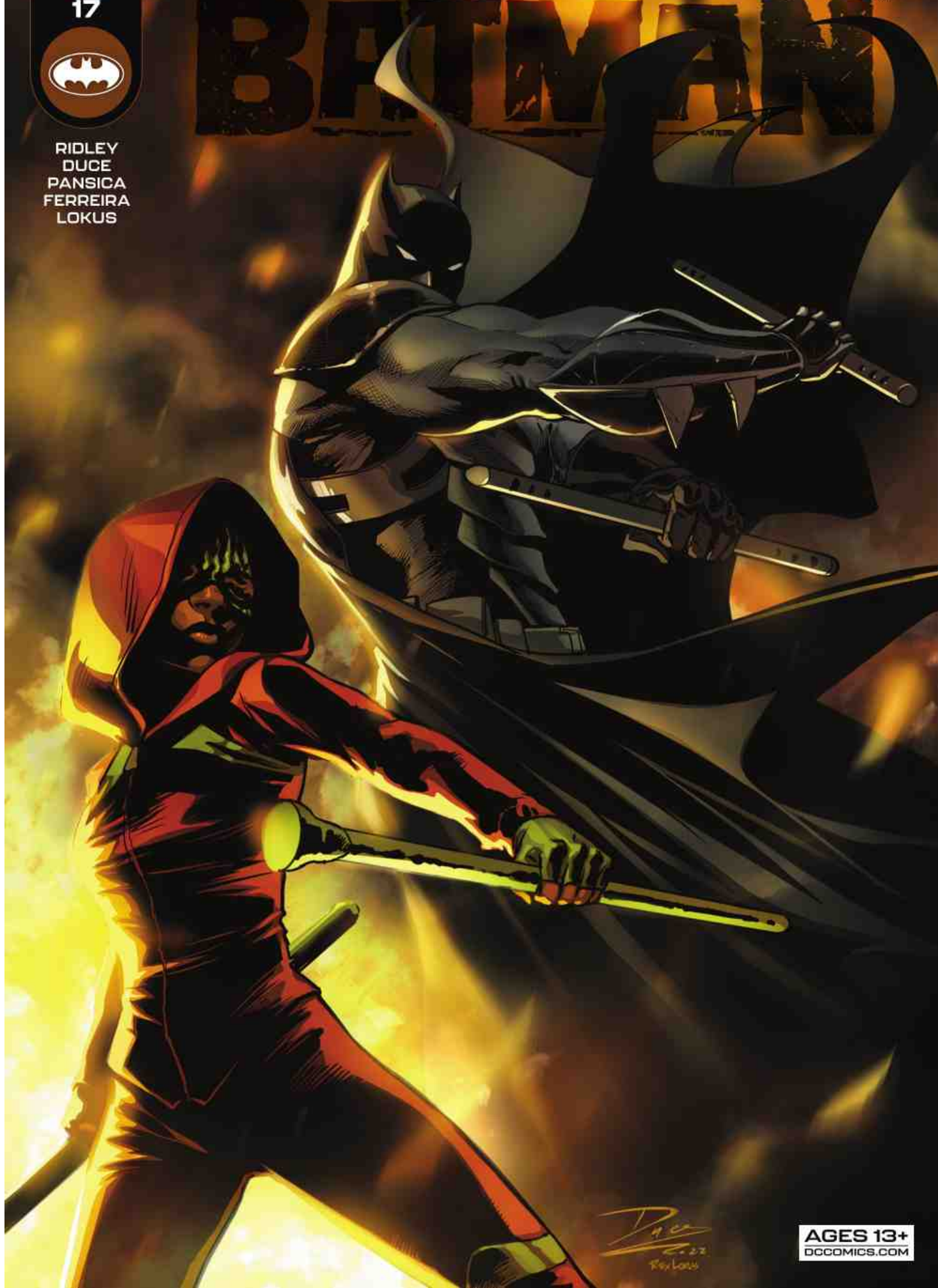




RIDLEY
DUCE
PANSICA
FERREIRA
LOKUS

I AM BATMAN™



Duce
2.22
Rex Lokus

AGES 13+
DCCOMICS.COM



FORGING THE FUTURE ONE HERO AT A TIME

**A YEARLONG
STORYTELLING
INITIATIVE**



**DAWN OF
DC**

**NEW EPIC
SERIES**

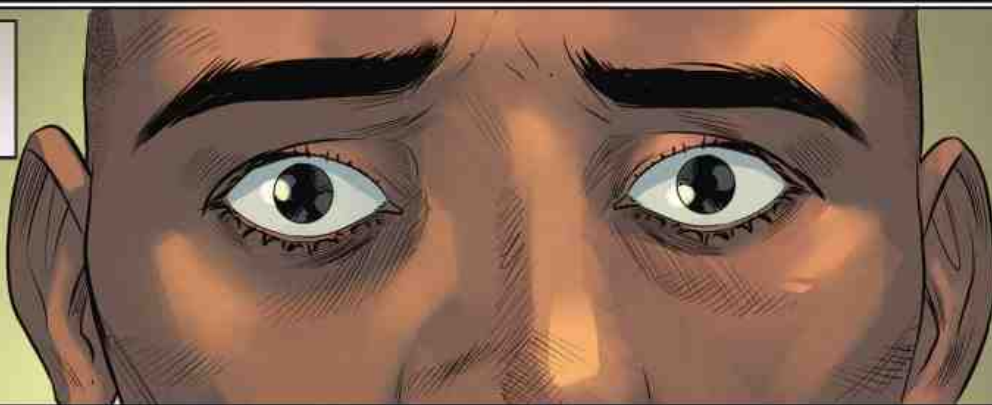
**NEW
CREATIVE
TEAMS**

**NEW
BATTLES
TO FIGHT**

ART BY DAN MORA

© & ™ DC

THERE ARE
THINGS
GOING ON
I CAN'T
PROCESS.



THERE ARE MURDERS
HAPPENING ACROSS THE
CITY TARGETING PEOPLE
WHO KNOW MY FATHER.



THERE'S A MAN WHO
SAYS HE'S GOING TO
KILL MY MOTHER.



AND THERE'S MY
MOTHER, WHO
SAYS THAT I'M
NOT HER SON.



I WANT TO
KNOW...



I JUST
WANT TO
KNOW...



...WHAT
THE HELL
IS GOING
ON...?

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN
YOU'RE NOT MY
MOTHER?



JACE,
YOU NEED
TO CALM
DOWN.



CALM
DOWN? THE
HELL WITH THAT!
TELL ME WHAT
IS GOING
ON.



TELL HIM,
DAD.



...THIS...
IT'S NOT AN
EASY THING
TO--



...TELL
ME!



I
WASN'T...



...I WAS NOT
FAITHFUL
TO YOUR
MOTHER.

IT WAS YEARS AGO.
OBVIOUSLY, I HAD
JUST STARTED
WORKING AT WAYNE
ENTERPRISES.



"THE HOURS WERE
LONG, THE PRESSURE...
YOU CAN'T IMAGINE."

"THINGS AT HOME WEREN'T...
THEY WEREN'T AS GOOD AS
THEY COULD HAVE BEEN."



"I FELT ALONE.
I FELT ADRIFT."



"AND
THEN..."



"AND THEN
I MET
ELENA.
ELENA
AOKI."



MET? YOU MEAN YOU SCREWED.

JACE! ...WE HAD A RELATIONSHIP.

SAY WHAT YOU *DID*! YOU TOOK ADVANTAGE OF A WOMAN WHO WORKED FOR YOU.



OUR RELATIONSHIP WAS **CONSENSUAL**.

YOU WERE HER **BOSS**! YOU HAD CONTROL OVER HER JOB, OVER HER CAREER...

THERE WASN'T ANYTHING "CONSENSUAL" ABOUT IT.



YOU USED YOUR PRIVILEGE AND YOUR POWER, SAME AS YOU ALWAYS DO.

THAT'S NOT...I CARED ABOUT ELENA.

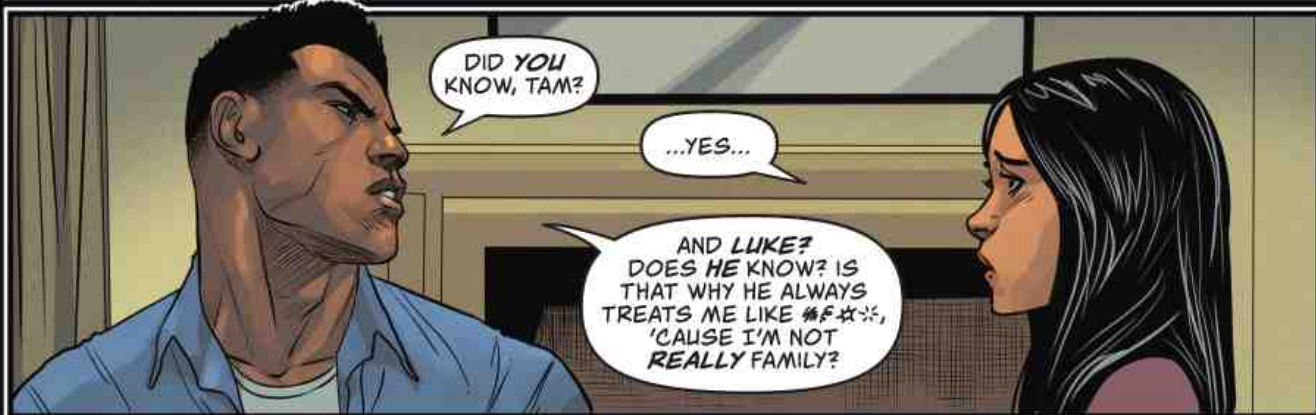


THAT'S YOUR VERSION OF **CARING** ABOUT SOMEBODY? YOU GET THEM **PREGNANT**, THEN TAKE **THEIR** BABY?



ELENA WAS NOT READY TO RAISE A CHILD, AND FOR HER...TERMINATING THE PREGNANCY WAS NOT THE CHOICE SHE WANTED TO MAKE.

I WAS HONEST WITH TANYA ABOUT WHAT HAD HAPPENED. WE HAD A LOT WE HAD TO WORK THROUGH. A LOT, BUT WHEN WE HAD, WE CHOSE TO RAISE YOU AS OUR SON.



DID YOU KNOW, TAM?

...YES...

AND LUKE? DOES HE KNOW? IS THAT WHY HE ALWAYS TREATS ME LIKE **FF**, 'CAUSE I'M NOT **REALLY** FAMILY?



THERE IS A LOT THAT HAS BEEN DONE WRONG, BUT YOU HAVE **ALWAYS** BEEN FAMILY TO US.

I HAVE **ALWAYS** TREATED YOU AS MY SON.



YOU **FORGIVE** HIM? HE **HUMILIATES** YOU LIKE THAT, AND YOU **FORGIVE** HIM?



I STAYED WITH YOUR FATHER. **STAYING** AND **FORGIVING** ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW YOU CAN EVEN DO THAT.



NO, JACE, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT IT'S LIKE TO STAY, BECAUSE WHEN YOU MESSED UP, YOU **RAN**.

YOU **RAN**, AND YOU LEFT IT TO THE REST OF THIS FAMILY TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT FOR YOU.

BUT YOU'RE GOING TO **JUDGE** US?

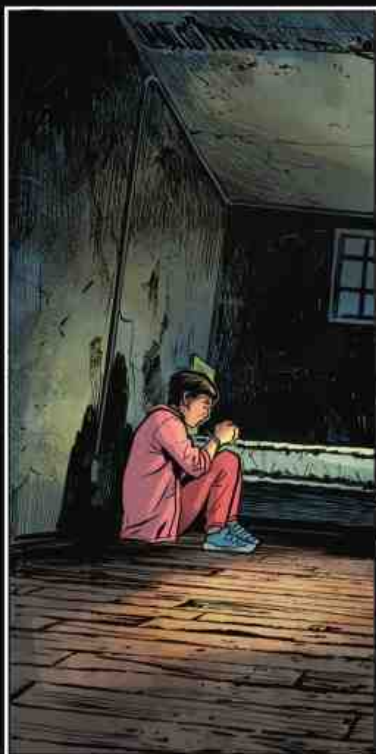


...I...



YOU ARE IN **NO** POSITION TO **JUDGE** ANYONE.



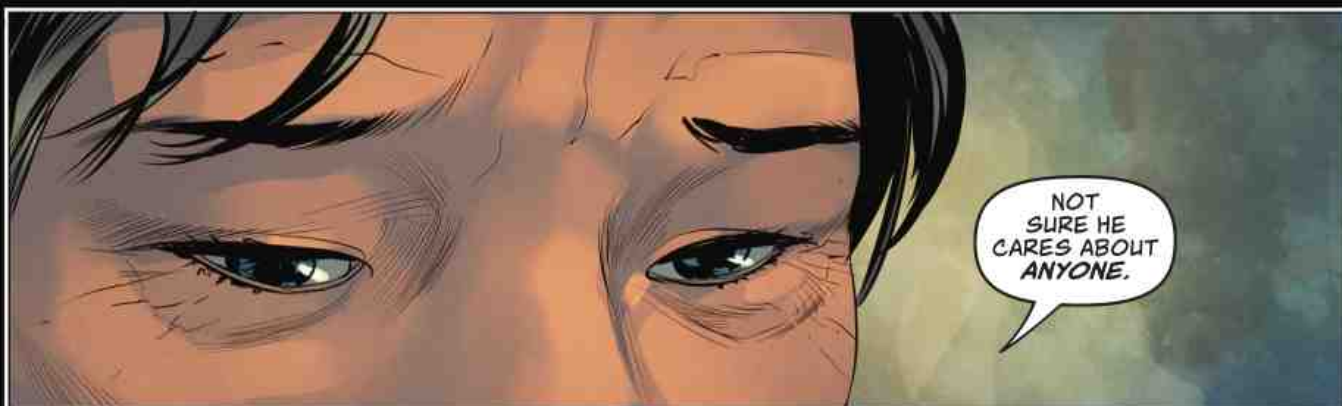


YOU
MAKE YOUR
DEMANDS?

YEAH.
TEN BILLION
DOLLARS WIRED
TO AN ENCRYPTED
ACCOUNT. CHUMP
CHANGE FOR
FOX.



HE
WON'T PAY.
HE DOESN'T
CARE ABOUT
ME.



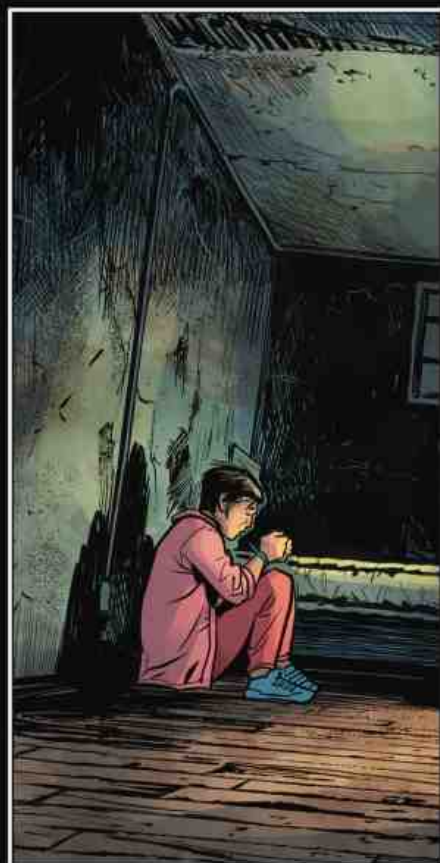
NOT
SURE HE
CARES ABOUT
ANYONE.



PEOPLE LIKE HIM
DON'T CARE ABOUT
ANYTHING EXCEPT **POWER**.
THAT'S WHY HE NEEDS TO BE
PUNISHED. BUT WHAT'S
MESSED UP...



YOU
UNDERSTAND
FOX NEEDS TO
BE PUNISHED,
BUT THE BEST
WAY TO PUNISH
FOX IS BY
KILLING
YOU.







"...WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO PROTECT THE ONES YOU LOVE?"



HADIYAH...

JACE...WHAT IS GOING ON? I'M SEEING THINGS ON SOCIAL MEDIA... SOMEBODY TRYING TO KILL YOUR MOTHER.

SHE'S NOT MY MOTHER.



WAIT, WHO'S NOT YOUR MOTHER?

YOU KNOW WHAT...? I'VE GOT NO IDEA.



YOU'RE NOT MAKING SENSE. WHAT IS HAPP--



JACE, DON'T BE LIK--
CLICK



"JACE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING...?"





VOL...
JACE ISN'T
COMING.

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN
HE'S NOT
COMING?

I DON'T KNOW
EVERYTHING THAT'S
GOING ON, BUT IF
THIS PERSON
WHO'S IN TROUBLE
IS REALLY JACE'S
MOTHER--



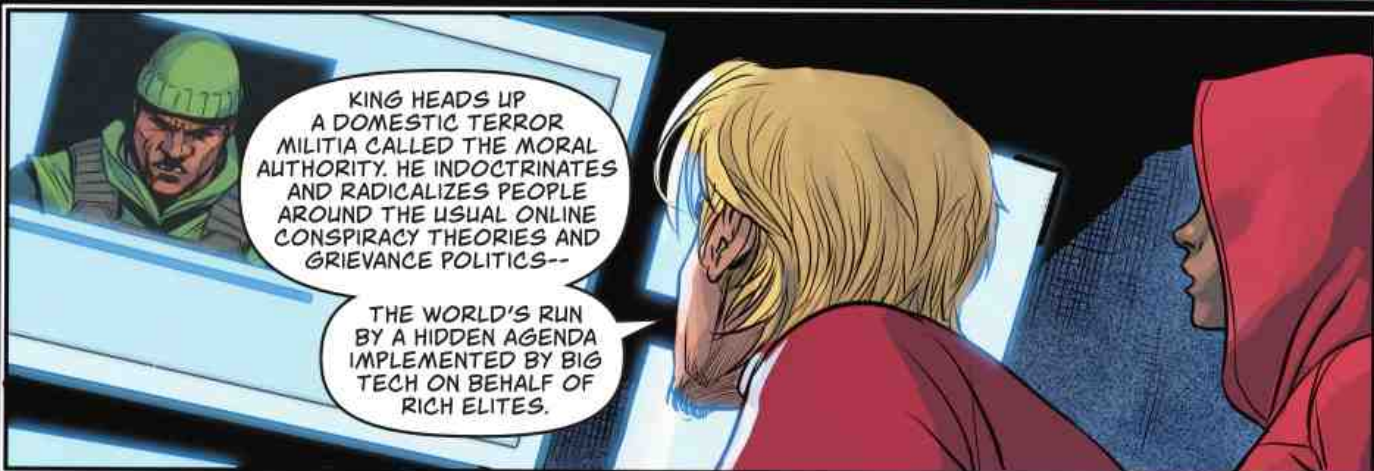
--JACE FOUND
OUT AT THE SAME
TIME AS THE REST OF
THE WORLD. IT'S NOT
JUST THAT HIS MOTHER
ISN'T HIS MOTHER.
HIS QUESTIONING HIS
ENTIRE RELATIONSHIP
WITH OUR
FATHER.

...I'M
QUESTIONING
IT, TOO...



JACE
WILL GET
HIMSELF
TOGETHER.
I KNOW HE
WILL.

BUT UNTIL HE
DOES, YOU AND
I NEED TO TAKE
THE LEAD. WHAT
DO YOU KNOW
ABOUT EZEKIEL
KING?



KING HEADS UP
A DOMESTIC TERROR
MILITIA CALLED THE MORAL
AUTHORITY. HE INDOCTRINATES
AND RADICALIZES PEOPLE
AROUND THE USUAL ONLINE
CONSPIRACY THEORIES AND
GRIEVANCE POLITICS--

THE WORLD'S RUN
BY A HIDDEN AGENDA
IMPLEMENTED BY BIG
TECH ON BEHALF OF
RICH ELITES.



MY FAMILY'S
NOT EXACTLY
DOING MUCH TO
DISPEL THAT MYTH.

KING'S SOLUTION
TO THE "PROBLEM" IS
EXTORTION, TARGETED
ASSASSINATION,
AND INDISCRIMINATE
KILLING.

CAN YOU
FIND HIM?



FINDING KING'S NOT
GOING TO BE HARD.
HE LIVES FOR
CONFRONTATION.
BUT, TIFF...

NO
DISRESPECT...
WITHOUT JACE YOU
COULD USE SOME
HELP. I'VE GOT
AN IDEA WHO, BUT
I'D BE READY
FOR A LITTLE
FRICTION.

"ARE YOU FREAKIN'
KIDDING ME?"



I OUGHT TO PUNCH YOU IN THE FACE AND HAVE YOU ARRESTED.

AS I TRIED TO TELL YOU BEFORE, **DETECTIVE CHUBB**, I REALIZE YOU AND I HAVE GOTTEN OFF TO A BAD STAR--

STOP IT! BATMAN USED TO SAY THAT TO ME.

AND YOU TWO HAVE DEVELOPED AT LEAST A WORKING RELATIONSHIP. I'M HOPING TO DO THE SAME. SOMEONE'S LIFE DEPENDS ON IT.

SHE'S NOT WRONG ABOUT THAT.

...HELL...

YOU KNOW WHERE **EZEKIEL KING** IS?

BASED ON HIS LIVE-STREAMS, YEAH, WE CAN NARROW HIS LOCATION.

WE'VE DEALT WITH KING BEFORE. HE'S AN IDEOLOGUE, AND A **REAL DANGER** WITH A **CULTLIKE FOLLOWING**.

WE MAKE A MOVE ON KING, HE'S GOING TO START SHOOTING, AND HE DOESN'T CARE ABOUT WHO HE KILLS.

YOU, US...THE HOSTAGE.

THAT'S IF YOU GO AT HIM **DIRECTLY**. I SHOULD BE ABLE TO **STEALTH** MY WAY IN AND FREE THE HOSTAGE.







"WHERE IS JACE?"

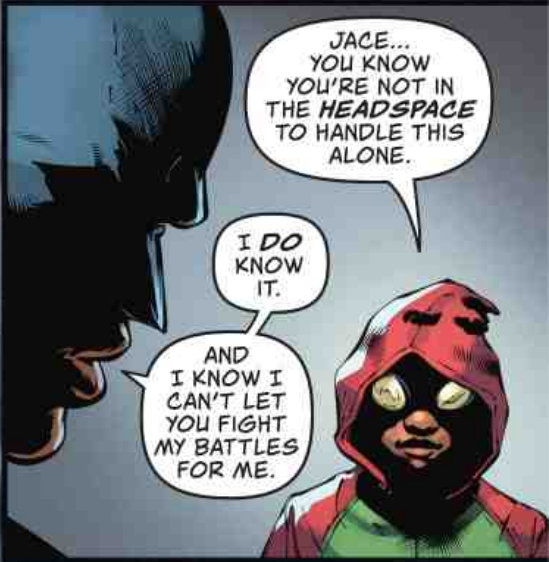


"DON'T."

A large comic book panel showing Batman in his iconic suit and cowl, holding a green staff. He is in a physical struggle with Jace, who is wearing a red hooded jacket with green accents and a green mask with yellow eyes. Jace is also holding the green staff. The background is a dark, cloudy sky with birds flying. Batman's expression is one of intense focus and determination.

I APPRECIATE YOU TRYING TO STEP UP, BUT... I GOT IT FROM HERE.

I KNEW YOU'D COME.

A smaller panel showing a close-up of Batman's face on the left, looking towards Jace on the right. Jace is wearing his red hooded jacket and green mask. The background is dark and indistinct.

JACE... YOU KNOW YOU'RE NOT IN THE HEADSPACE TO HANDLE THIS ALONE.

I DO KNOW IT.

AND I KNOW I CAN'T LET YOU FIGHT MY BATTLES FOR ME.

A close-up panel of Jace's face. He is wearing his red hooded jacket and green mask with yellow eyes. He has a determined and slightly defiant expression.

YOU'RE TRYING TO SAVE YOUR MOTHER.

THERE'S NO WAY I'M NOT GOING WITH.

GOT IT?

A close-up panel of Batman's face. He is wearing his cowl and has a slight, knowing smile.

YEAH. GOT IT.

A panel showing Batman and Jace on a rooftop at night. Batman is standing and looking towards Jace, who is sitting and holding a small device. The city lights are visible in the background.

DETECTIVE, IT'S... ME. THERE'S ONLY FOUR OF THEM. WE'RE GOING IN.

"WE"?

YEAH. THE BATMAN'S WITH ME. GIVE US FIVE MINUTES, THEN WHAT'S LEFT OF KING IS YOURS.





THE TOOL
HAS ARRIVED. THE
BODYGUARD OF THE
HIDDEN AGENDA'S
LIES.

IT'S
SAD WHEN
ANYBODY
BUYS IN TO
CONSPIRACY-
THEORY
CRAP.

PATHETIC
WHEN A
BROTHER
DOES IT.



IT'S THE
TRUTH, AND
YOU KNOW IT.
I CAN SEE IT IN
YOUR EYES.

**CONSPIRACY
THEORIES?** YOU
THINK I'M MAKING
THIS CRAP UP?

LUCIUS FOX IS
AN ENTITLED PIG. HE
DIDN'T GIVE A ~~SHIT~~
ABOUT THAT WOMAN,
OR THE CHILD HE HAD
WITH HER.

MONEY, POWER,
CONTROL...
THAT'S ALL THAT
MATTERS TO
PEOPLE LIKE
HIM.

SAME AS YOU
KNOW LUCIUS FOX
AND HIS CRIMES
AREN'T WORTH
FIGHTING OVER.



LUCIUS FOX
ISN'T WORTH
FIGHTING
OVER.

...BATMAN...



BUT YOU
DON'T GET TO
KILL INNOCENT
PEOPLE.
AND YOU
SURE AS HELL
DON'T GET TO
KILL ELENA
AOKI.

I TOOK
YOU DOWN LAST
TIME. THIS
TIME...



**WE ARE
GONNA DROP
YOU.**







YOU
BROUGHT THE
WAR RIGHT
TO MY DOOR-
STEP.

...YOU DON'T
HAVE TO KILL
THEM...

"WE THE
PEOPLE," BATMAN.
THE PEOPLE ARE
FED UP WITH THE
LIES OF THE HIDDEN
AGENDA.



DIFFERENT
FROM YOU,
I'M NOT A
TOOL.



DON'T!

YOU'VE
GOT **NOBODY**
LEFT TO HELP
YOU.



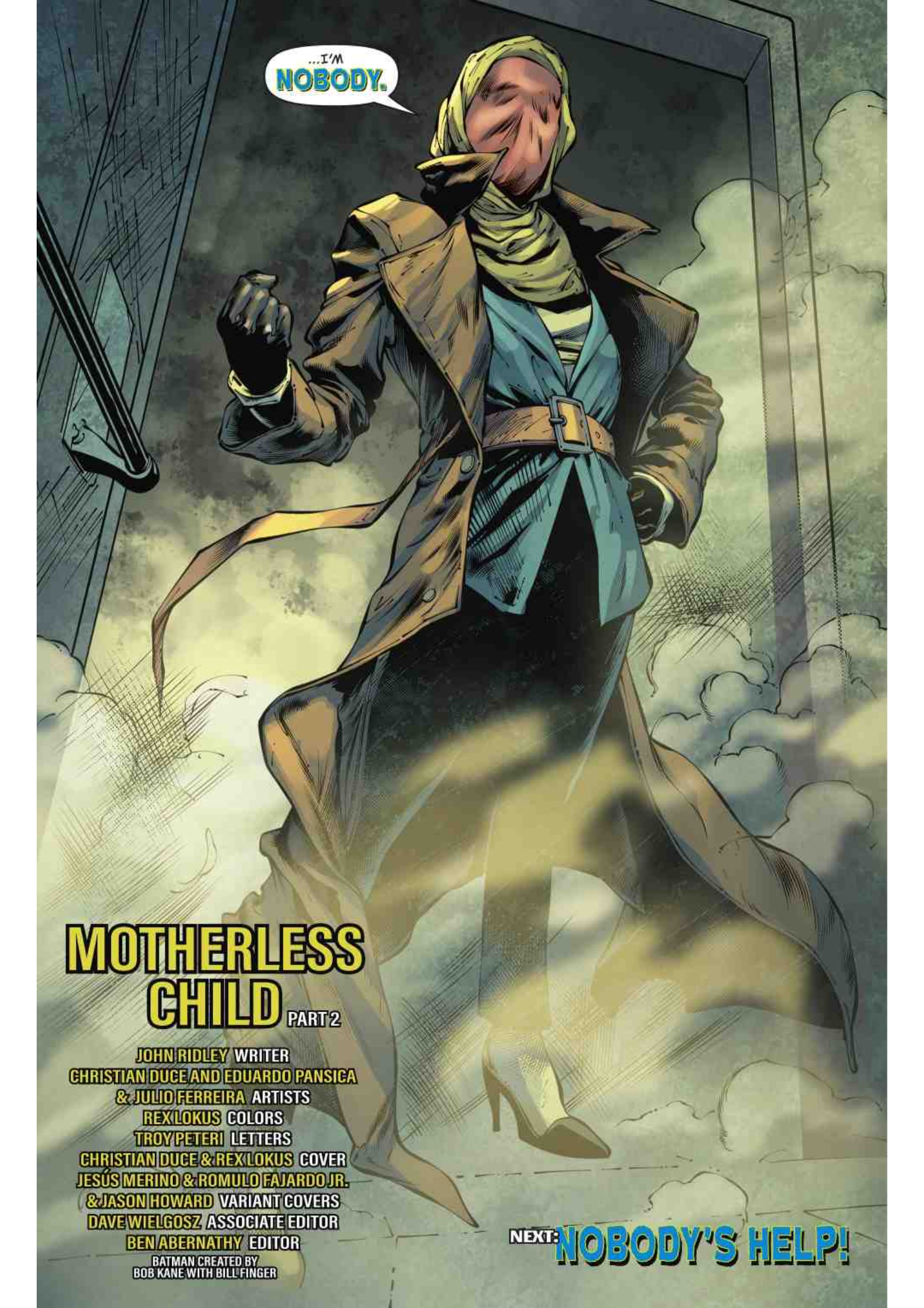
...DA
HELL IS
THAT...?



WHO
THE *******
ARE YOU?!



WELL,
I GUESS
YOU COULD
SAY...



...I'M
NOBODY.

MOTHERLESS CHILD

PART 2

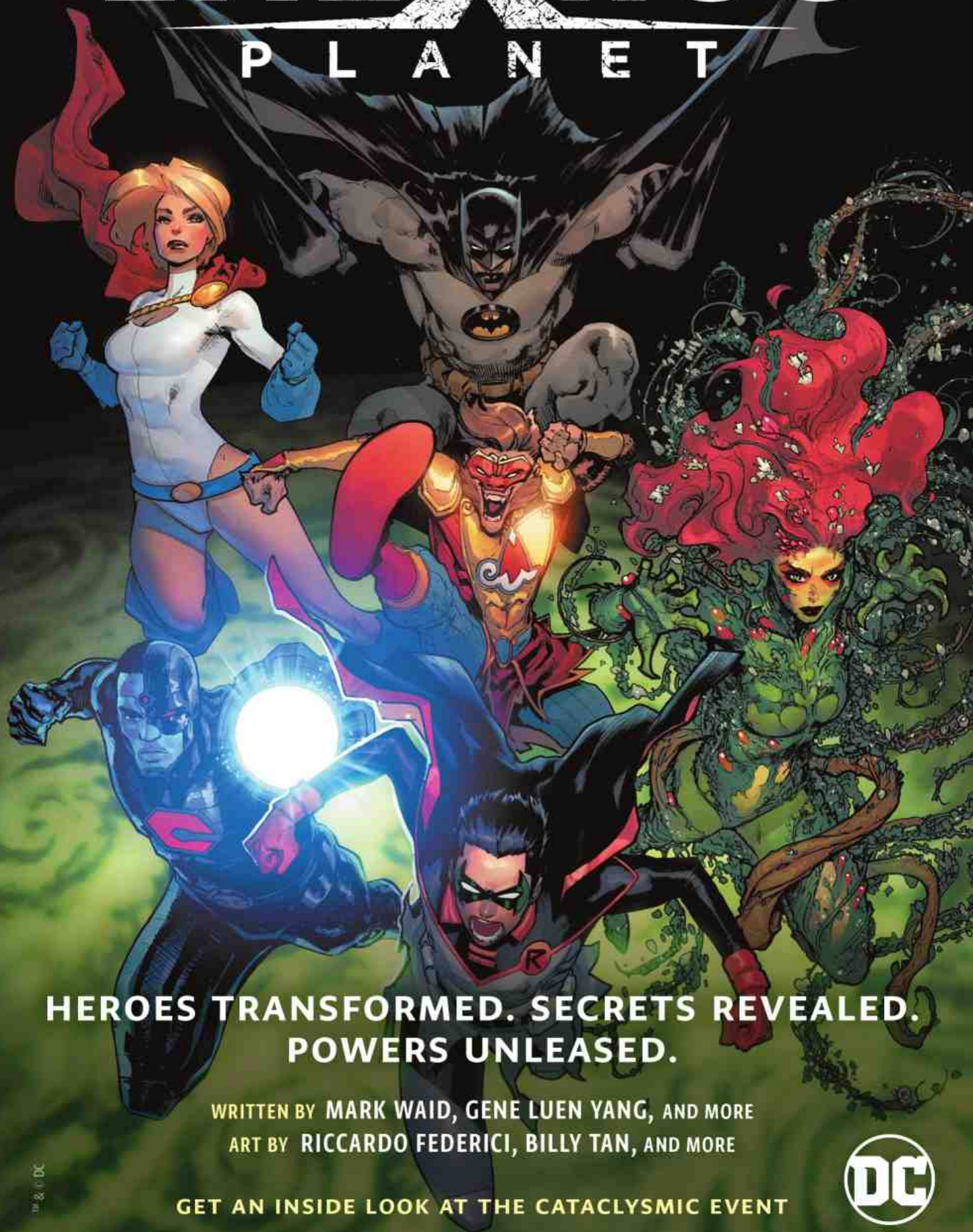
JOHN RIDLEY WRITER
CHRISTIAN DUCE AND EDUARDO PANSICA
& JULIO FERREIRA ARTISTS
REXLOKUS COLORS
TROY PETERI LETTERS
CHRISTIAN DUCE & REXLOKUS COVER
JESÚS MERINO & ROMULO FAJARDO JR.
& JASON HOWARD VARIANT COVERS
DAVE WIELGOSZ ASSOCIATE EDITOR
BEN ABERNATHY EDITOR

BATMAN CREATED BY
BOB KANE WITH BILL FINGER

NEXT: **NOBODY'S HELP!**

DC NATION SPECIAL EDITION

DC UNIVERSE
LAZARUS
PLANET



**HEROES TRANSFORMED. SECRETS REVEALED.
POWERS UNLEASHED.**

WRITTEN BY MARK WAID, GENE LUEN YANG, AND MORE
ART BY RICCARDO FEDERICI, BILLY TAN, AND MORE

GET AN INSIDE LOOK AT THE CATAclySMIC EVENT



"NEW HEROES WILL BE BORN AND EXISTING HEROES' POWERS WILL BE CHANGED FOREVER."

In the climax of December's *Batman vs. Robin* #4, a Lazarus Volcano erupts, spewing dangerous and transformative chemicals into Earth's atmosphere.

"That much magic can't be contained—so when it erupts it spews out Lazarus Resin and creates a violent 'rainstorm' that covers the world," explains Mark Waid, the superstar writer and architect of the DC Universe: Lazarus Planet event.

Waid has been no stranger to the DC Universe this past year, penning the bestselling series *Batman/Superman: World's Finest* and *Batman vs. Robin*, which set the stage for this event, beginning in January's *Lazarus Planet: Alpha* #1.

"In *Batman/Superman: World's Finest*, we introduced the Devil Nezha, an ancient evil that could be contained only within the tomb on a remote island," Waid says. "Once our heroes sealed him inside, we sprung the surprise reveal—the tomb is on Lazarus Island. Then in *Batman vs. Robin*, we learn that Mother Soul, Damian's great-grandmother on his al Ghul side, has been searching for Nezha and used Damian to unleash him once more."



"NEZHA IS A TRICKSTER GOD WHO OFTEN DANCES ON THAT LINE BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL."

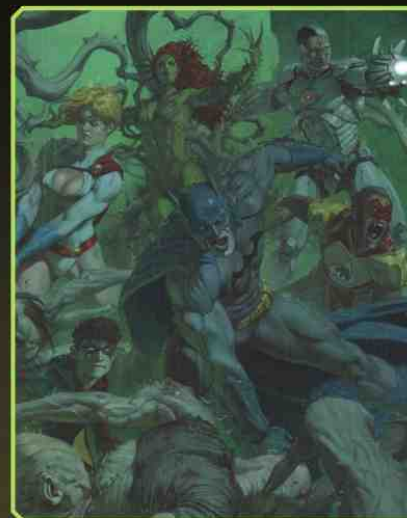
Helping craft the two-month Lazarus Planet event alongside Waid will be *Monkey Prince* writer Gene Luen Yang. "Traditionally, Nezha is a trickster god who often dances on that line between good and evil," Yang says. "In *Batman/Superman: World's Finest*, Mark brought him into the DC Universe and specifically tied him into elements of the Batman mythos."



The Lazarus Volcano will make its rumblings known throughout the DC Universe in a series of one-shots helmed by all-star talent, including Francis Manapul, Phillip Kennedy Johnson, Leah Williams, Max Dunbar, Clayton Henry, Tim Seeley, and Marguerite Sauvage. Fan-favorite heroes throughout the DC Universe will be heavily invested in uncovering the secrets behind the Lazarus Resin.

"Power Girl is part of the team that tries to free Earth's magical artifacts from the Tower of Fate, where Nezha has imprisoned them," Waid explains. "Poison Ivy, on the other hand, is part of the team exploring one of Ra's al Ghul's mountain headquarters looking for clues to counteract the resin. Ra's was aware of her background as a brilliant biochemist who, like him, is eager to reestablish a working ecosystem before our planet succumbs to global war."

"THE WRITERS AND ARTISTS ARE EMBRACING THAT FREEDOM TO DO SOME OF THE BEST WORK..."



"The writers and artists are embracing that freedom to do some of the best work I've seen in a long time," Waid continues. "Everyone's been incredibly cooperative and willing to toss ideas back and forth to make their own stories even better."

The full scope of the story starts out in *Lazarus Planet: Alpha* and continues in the one-shot tie-ins *Lazarus Planet: Assault on Krypton*, *Lazarus Planet: We Were Once Gods*, *Lazarus Planet: Dark Fate*, *Lazarus Planet: Next Evolution*, and *Lazarus Planet: Legends Reborn*—all leading to the fateful finale in *Lazarus Planet: Omega* and the aftermath in *Lazarus Planet: Revenge of the Gods*.



After the events of Lazarus Planet, the gods of the Multiverse decide to take down the heroes they once called champions and the world they've sworn to protect.

The team of gods is led by Earth-0's wizard Shazam, who has been granted a vision from the Lazarus Resin the likes of which he has never seen before.

As if major changes to existing heroes and the introduction of all-new ones weren't enough, Lazarus Planet has a ton of surprises in store for even the most hardcore DC fan. "There's a fusion of Cyborg and Blue Beetle, a key role for Blue Devil, the mightiest bolt of Shazam lightning in history, Swamp Thing vs. Nezha, and a really, really, really ugly turn for Batman," Waid teases.

"Mark's premise for Lazarus Planet is so fun, the rest of us can't help but respond with all the creativity we can muster," Yang says. "Even as a fan, I can't wait to read what everyone's come up with."





LAZARUS RAINS DOWN!



LAZARUS PLANET: ASSAULT ON KRYPTON

Written by: Nicole Maines, C.S. Pacat, Frank Barbiere, and Leah Williams

Art by: Skylar Patridge, Scott Godlewski, Sami Basri, and Marguerite Sauvage

With the world in chaos and Lazarus raining from the skies, the Earth's protectors from Krypton are hit hard, and the heroes will never be the same again.

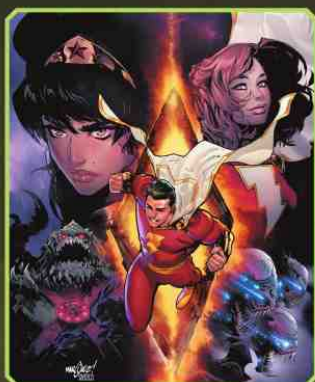


LAZARUS PLANET: NEXT EVOLUTION

Written by: Ram V, Brandon T. Snider, Chuck Brown, and Delilah S. Dawson

Art by: Lalit Kumar Sharma, Laura Braga, Alitha Martinez and Mark Morales, and Ro Stein and Ted Brandt

Amazing new powers have been gifted to the freedom fighters of the future. What perils will these villain-vanquishing virtuosos face alongside a brand-new legend, The Vigil?



LAZARUS PLANET: WE WERE ONCE GODS

Written by: Francis Manapul, Dan Watters, Phillip Kennedy Johnson, and Josie Campbell

Art by: Francis Manapul, Max Dunbar, Jack Herbert, and Caitlin Yarsky

The gods are in for some big changes as Lazarus rain beats down upon the Earth. Explore the Lazarus Planet's effect on DC Universe's extraordinary creatures and locations involving the Shazam Family and the Rock of Eternity.

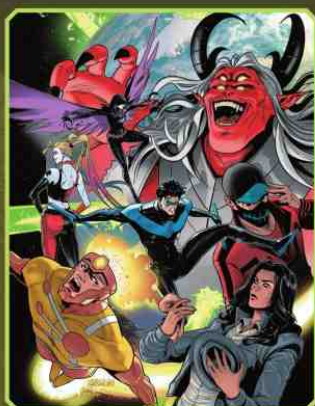


LAZARUS PLANET: DARK FATE

Written by: Tim Seeley, Dennis Culver, A.L. Kaplan, and Alyssa Wong

Art by: Baldemar Rivas, Chris Burnham, A.L. Kaplan, and Haining

Who are the new villains created by the Lazarus rain and what heroes can stop them? A sinister threat will bring a new chapter to the Doom Patrol while a new danger lurks in the dark corners of the Spirit World for new character Xanthe?



LAZARUS PLANET: LEGENDS REBORN

Written by: Alex Segura, Greg Pak, Alex Paknadel, and Dennis Culver

Art by: Clayton Henry, Minkyu Jung, Christopher Mitten, and Jesús Merino

Heroes and villains long forgotten return! Nightwing and the new hero City Boy go on a quest to save Gotham from a surge of fantastical power that will affect the DC Universe forevermore!

LAZARUS PLANET: REVENGE OF THE GODS (COVER COMING SOON)

Written by: G. Willow Wilson

Art by: Cian Tormey & Caitlin Yarsky

The wizard Shazam has teamed up with the Quintessence to regain control of their champions. Shazam and Wonder Woman must work together and defeat the gods as they risk losing their powers for good.

DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

DC UNIVERSE LAZARUS PLANET CHECKLIST

JANUARY

- ❑ *Lazarus Planet: Alpha* #1
- ❑ *Monkey Prince* #10
- ❑ *Lazarus Planet: Assault on Krypton* #1
- ❑ *Lazarus Planet: We Once Were Gods* #1
- ❑ *Lazarus Planet: Legends Reborn* #1

FEBRUARY

- ❑ *Lazarus Planet: Next Evolution* #1
- ❑ *Monkey Prince* #11
- ❑ *Lazarus Planet: Dark Fate* #1
- ❑ *Lazarus Planet: Omega* #1
- ❑ *Batman vs. Robin* #5

MARCH

- ❑ *Lazarus Planet: Revenge of the Gods* #1
- ❑ *Wonder Woman* #797
- ❑ *Lazarus Planet: Revenge of the Gods* #2

APRIL

- ❑ *Lazarus Planet: Revenge of the Gods* #3
- ❑ *Wonder Woman* #798
- ❑ *Lazarus Planet: Revenge of the Gods* #4



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The Last Kryptonian-DCP

